



State of Arizona
Department of Education
Research and Evaluation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Anju Kuriakose, Director of Accountability

DATE: July 20, 2011

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT: New Deadlines/Timetable for 2011 AZ LEARNS
(REF: RE11005-E)

The Arizona Department of Education will be releasing two different State Accountability measures this year – the traditional AZ LEARNS profiles and the newly instituted A-F rating of schools and districts. The preliminary A-F ratings will be released on August 1, 2011 using the common logon application, and the public release will be on September 6, 2011. This will be followed by the legacy AZ LEARNS release.

It is our intent to put the focus on the A-F ratings so that schools have ample time to reflect, review and revise as they begin to transition to a more rigorous, statistically sound formulae that give equal value to overall academic performance and individual student growth.

This memo is to inform you of the timetable for the release of:

- AZ LEARNS Legacy System (Excelling, Highly Performing, Performing, Underperforming)
- AZ LEARNS A-F

Important reminders regarding AZ LEARNS.

AZ LEARNS uses AIMS data, 5 year cohort graduation rate, Dropout rate, and English Language Learner Reclassification rate (Fiscal year 2010).

AIMS data – Please ensure that all students have the correct SAISIDs in the testing file. You can check this by using the SAISID mismatch application on the common logon. The AIMS download application will also include the growth percentile ranks at the student level. This is aggregated to the school/district level for the A-F calculations.



Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate – Please review this information using the Graduation Rate Cohort Report on the common logon. Corrections must be made in SAIS.

ELL Data – Please review the information using the SDELL71 report. Corrections must be made in SAIS.

Appeals for AZ LEARNS

Data corrections in SAIS must be completed by 4pm on August 8 for both A-F and Legacy AZ LEARNS. You will be unable to open a 15 -915 after this window is closed to make data corrections that we can include for AZ LEARNS public releases. For a statistical appeal all that needs to be done is data corrections in SAIS. For the legacy AZ LEARNS release, a substantive appeal can be filed. Both systems use the same data and hence all data should be corrected in SAIS before August 8 at 4pm.

Appeals for AZ LEARNS

	Appeal Description	Appeals Open	Appeals Close
A-F AZ LEARNS	Only Statistical	August 1	August 8
Legacy AZ LEARNS	Only Substantive	September 7	September 14

Release Dates

The ADE will release information to schools, districts, and the public on the dates provided below.

<i>Embargoed release to districts/schools</i>		<i>Public release</i>	
AZ LEARNS A-F	August 1, 2011	AZ LEARNS A-F	September 6, 2011
AZ LEARNS Legacy	September 7, 2011	AZ LEARNS Legacy	October 7, 2011

I appreciate your attention to these upcoming calendar events as well as your ongoing cooperation. Please be sure to share this information with appropriate district and school staff, as necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the ADE Research and Evaluation section at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@azed.gov.

